

1996 Halloween Events

Friday	October 25	6:00-8:00p	Northwest
		6:00-8:00p	Parque Zaragoza
Saturday	October 26	11:00a-2:00p	McBeth
Sunday	October 27	6:00-8:00p	Auditorium Shores
Wednesday	October 30	6:00pm	Montopolis
		6:00-9:00p	Dottie Jordan
Thursday	October 31	6:30-8:30p	Dove Springs
		6:00p	Givens
		6:00-9:00p	O'AB'C/Pan Am
		6:30-9:00p	South Austin
		7:00-9:00p	Dittmar
		6:30-8:30p	Rosewood

1996 Thanksgiving Dinners

Friday	November 15	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	McBeth
Tuesday	November 19	11:30 am	Dottie Jordan
Thursday	November 21	6:00 pm	Parque Zaragoza
		6:30 pm	Alamo
		7:00 pm	Givens
		7:00 pm	Montopolis
Monday	November 25	6:00 pm	Metz
		6:00 - 9:00 pm	OABC/Pan Am
		6:00 - 8:00 pm	South Austin
Tuesday	November 26	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Dove Springs

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

GOALS 1995/96

1. Monitor the number of watercraft on Town Lake (4th year) to have information for planning and safety.
 - * This monitoring continued through 1995/96. No numbers are available for 1995/6.
2. Continue working for the removal of safety hazards in Town Lake, Lake Austin and Lake Walter E. Long (on going).
 - * No removal of safety hazards took place during 1995/96
3. Install "No wake" signs for Bee Creek, and mileage markers for for the entire distance of Lake Austin.
 - * The existing "No Wake" buoys were supplemented with additional buoys which appears to have eased the problem. Mileage buoys are now proposed instead of markers. (see 1996/97 goals)
4. Work to remove problems of congestion, both parking and boat traffic, at Walsh Boat landing ramp on Lake Austin (continuation)
 - * Signs were erected in the parking lot designating areas for boat ramp use and for vehicles with trailers. Congestion problems are ongoing and are covered in the 1996/97 goals.
5. Act on and approve/disapprove all applications for construction and/or repair of boat docks and retaining walls that may come before the committee.
 - * The navigation committee reviewed 20 requests for construction on Lake Austin, 18 were approved and 2 denied. Other navigation issues that were considered were the North Lake Austin Ski Club, Walsh Boat Landing parking area, the Lake Travis boating study, and the recommended night time boat speed.
6. Work to improve trash removal from Town Lake and Lake Austin.
 - * Town Lake Clean ups and routine trash removal continued during 1995/96.

PROPOSED GOALS FOR 1996/97

- * Monitor and and keep records of the number of watercraft, particularly the number of exemptions for gasoline powered watercraft, on Town Lake (5th year) to have information for planning and safety.
- * Reduce the number of permits issued for gas powered watercraft on Town Lake. Encourage the use of alternative fuel watercraft on Town Lake.
- * Continue working for the removal, or marking by buoys, of safety hazards in Town Lake, Lake Austin and Lake Walter E. Long. These include submerged hazards such as shoals at the mouths of creeks and underwater obstructions.
- * Act on and approve/disapprove all applications for construction and/or repair of boat docks and retaining walls that may come before the committee.
- * Work to improve trash removal from Town Lake and Lake Austin.
- * Actively pursue funding for a Boating Recreation Study for Lake Austin.
- * Initiate and support implementation of a Lake Management Plan for Lake Austin.
- * Support proposed amendments to the Water Safety Act in the 1997 Legislative session. Request that the City include support for the amendments in its 1997 legislative agenda.
- * Law Enforcement
 - * Pursue funding for additional manpower and equipment to increase the number and duration of lake patrols.
 - * Increase and focus patrols at high use/conflict areas.
 - * Adopt zero tolerance for alcohol and drug impairment,
 - * Adopt No/low tolerance for violations of Texas Water Safety Act relating to operation of watercraft, including excessive speed, reckless boating, and boat navigation lights, and equipment.
 - * Encourage and support state legislation providing boating law enforcement block grants and to increase fines for "reckless operation" and "excessive speed".

- * Investigate and evaluate noise level regulations.
 - Enforcement of the current noise regulations is subjective and can be difficult to enforce. Consideration should be given to establishing a specific decibel noise limit.
- * Encourage use of "ski-flags" by boats towing a skier.
 - This would be a voluntary program where an orange flag would be displayed by a boat involved in water skiing activities where there is a skier being towed or a possibility that there may be a skier down in the water.
- * Publicize telephone numbers for reporting unsafe boating behavior. (Emergency - 911)
- * Publicize availability of boater education classes.
- * Publicize and enforce Rule of the Road for watercraft using Lake Austin.
 - This requires all watercraft to drive on the right, except to pick up downed skiers.
- * "Lake Guidelines" brochure.
 - Revise and reprint the "Lake Guidelines" brochure. Expand distribution to businesses located on Lake Austin and local watercraft dealers. Consider installing brochure dispensers at the four public boat ramps on Lake Austin and at Lake Walter E. Long.
- * Mile/Centerline Markers
 - Installation of buoys, at 1/2 mile intervals, to designate the channel centerline of Lake Austin and assist in the "drive on the right" rule. The buoys would be marked with the corresponding mile zone to identify the location on Lake Austin.
- * Investigate use of personal water craft in congested areas.
 - Consider designating specific PWC areas, and prohibiting PWCs from specific areas.
- * Consider implementing "No Wake Zones" in the most congested areas of Lake Austin. These areas are:

Walsh Boat Landing - At all times
 - No Wake Zone across the lake from immediately upstream of Walsh
 - Boat landing downstream to the dam.

Loop 360 Boat Ramp -

- Summer months, Friday evening through Sunday night.
- No Wake Zone across the lake from 150' upstream to 150' downstream of the Loop 360 bridge.

Emma Long Metro Park -

- Summer months, Friday evening through Sunday night.
- No Wake Zone across the width of the lake from the Emma Long boat launch ramp to 150' up stream of the "The Pier".

The zones at Loop 360 and Emma Long would be indicated with bouys that would be placed in the water during the summer months. The bouys would be equipped with a flashing light that would be turned on during the hours of operation of the No Wake Zones.

- * Require the correct lighting of boat docks by publicity and enforcement.
 - Many of the boat docks along Lake Austin do not have navigation lighting or have lighting that does not comply with the City Code requirements, such as incorrect color lights or spot lights that shine out into the lake.
- * Action to reduce congestion at the public boat launch ramps on Lake Austin.
 - Severe congestion occurs at Loop 360 and Walsh boat ramps both on the shore with boats waiting to put in the water, parking vehicles, and boats waiting to get out of the water.
- * Investigate methods to control aquatic weed growth.